MARVEL COMICS
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN
AT THE MERCY OF THE FOREIGNER'S FORCES!
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$1.25 US
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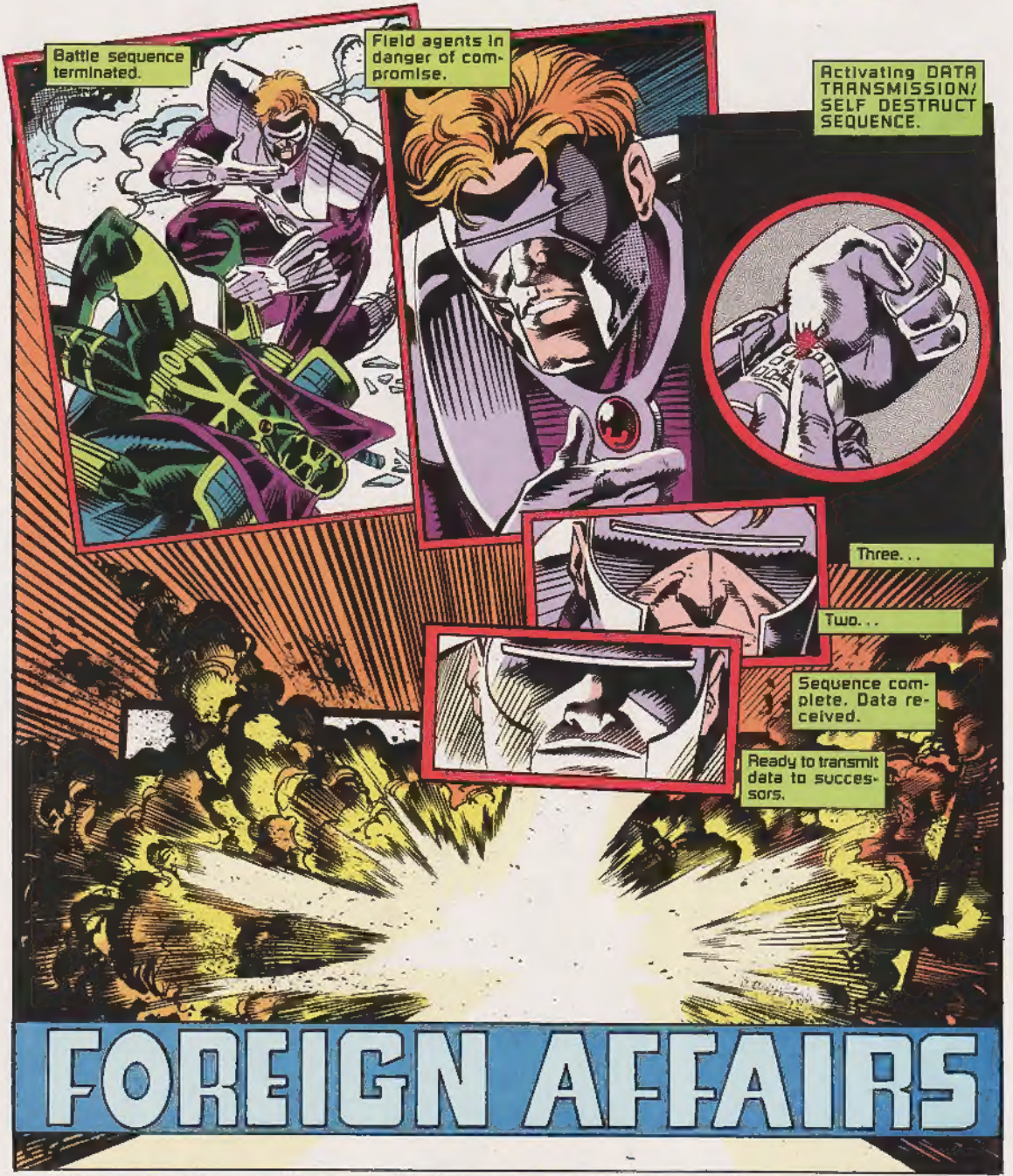
92
SEPT
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
02527
A. SAVIUK
(AND, HEY--DIDN'T A COUPLE OF THESE GUYS DIE LAST ISSUE?!)

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: # WEB OF SPIDER-MAN™


Battle sequence terminated.
Field agents in danger of compromise.
Activating DATA TRANSMISSION/ SELF DESTRUCT SEQUENCE.
Three. . .
Two. . .
Sequence complete. Data received.
Ready to transmit data to successors.

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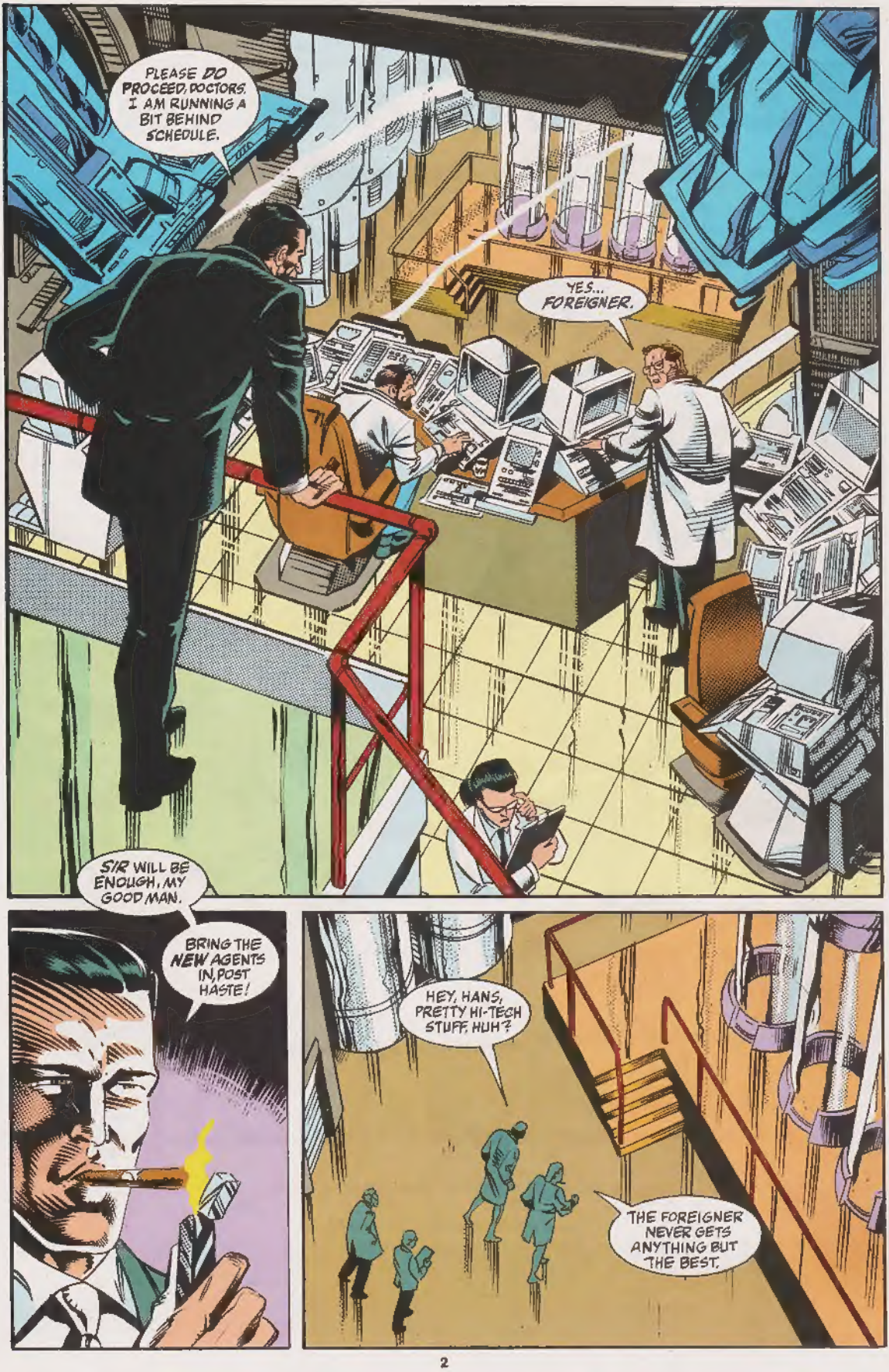
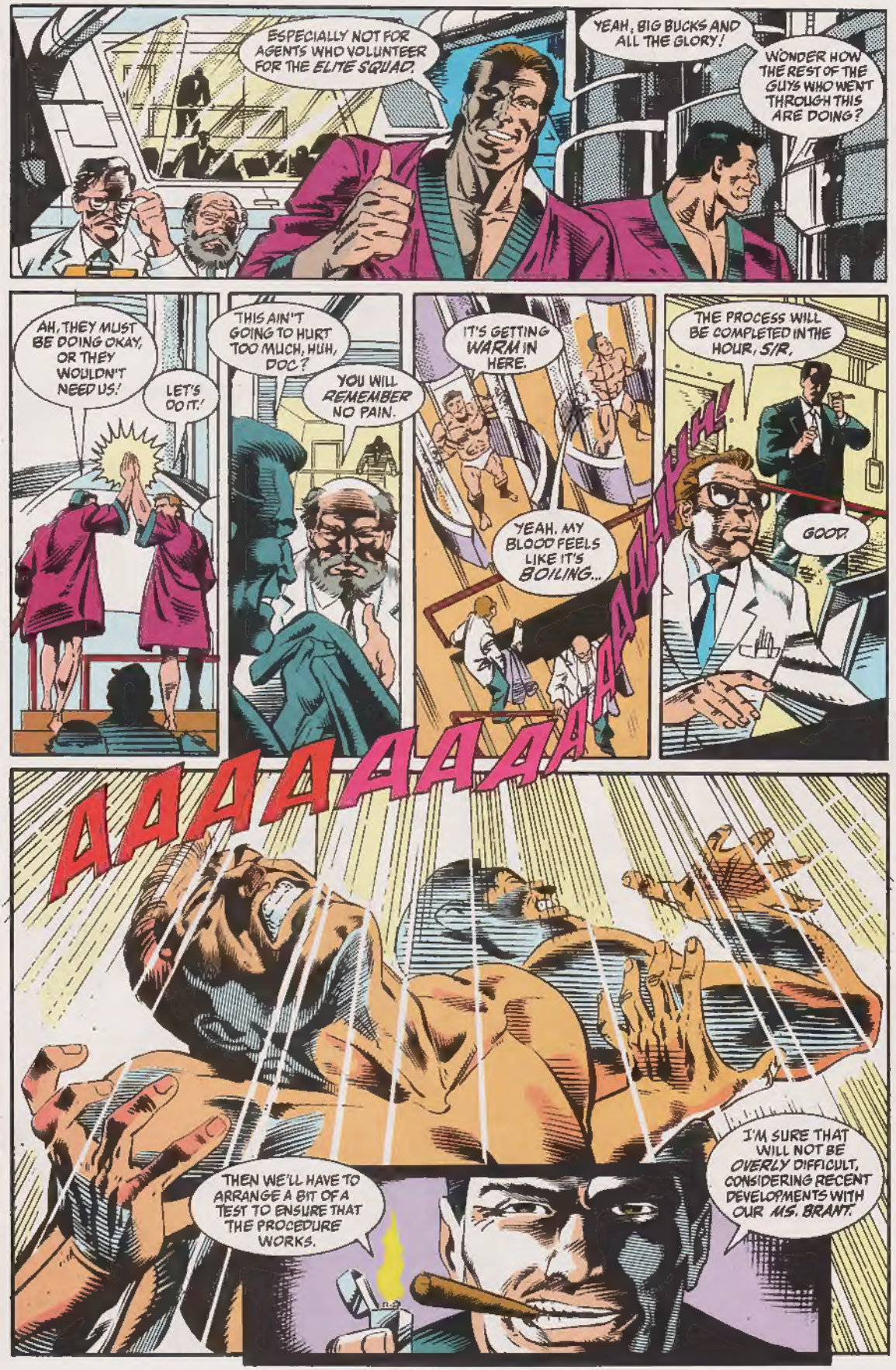
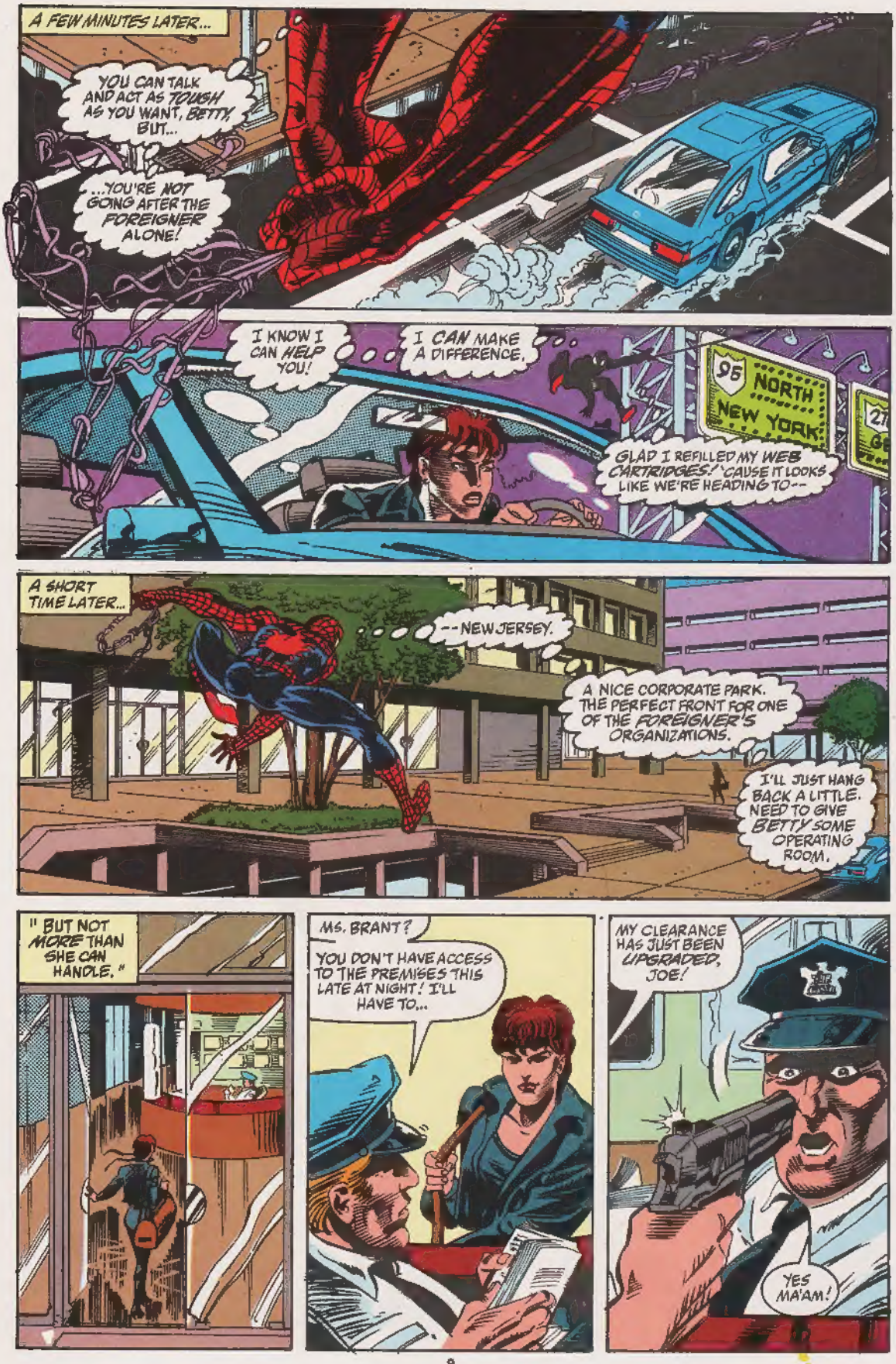

PLEASE DO PROCEED, DOCTORS. I AM RUNNING A BIT BEHIND SCHEDULE.
YES... FOREIGNER.
SIR WILL BE ENOUGH, MY GOOD MAN.
BRING THE NEW AGENTS IN, POST HASTE!
HEY, HANS, PRETTY HI-TECH STUFF, HUH?
THE FOREIGNER NEVER GETS ANYTHING BUT THE BEST.

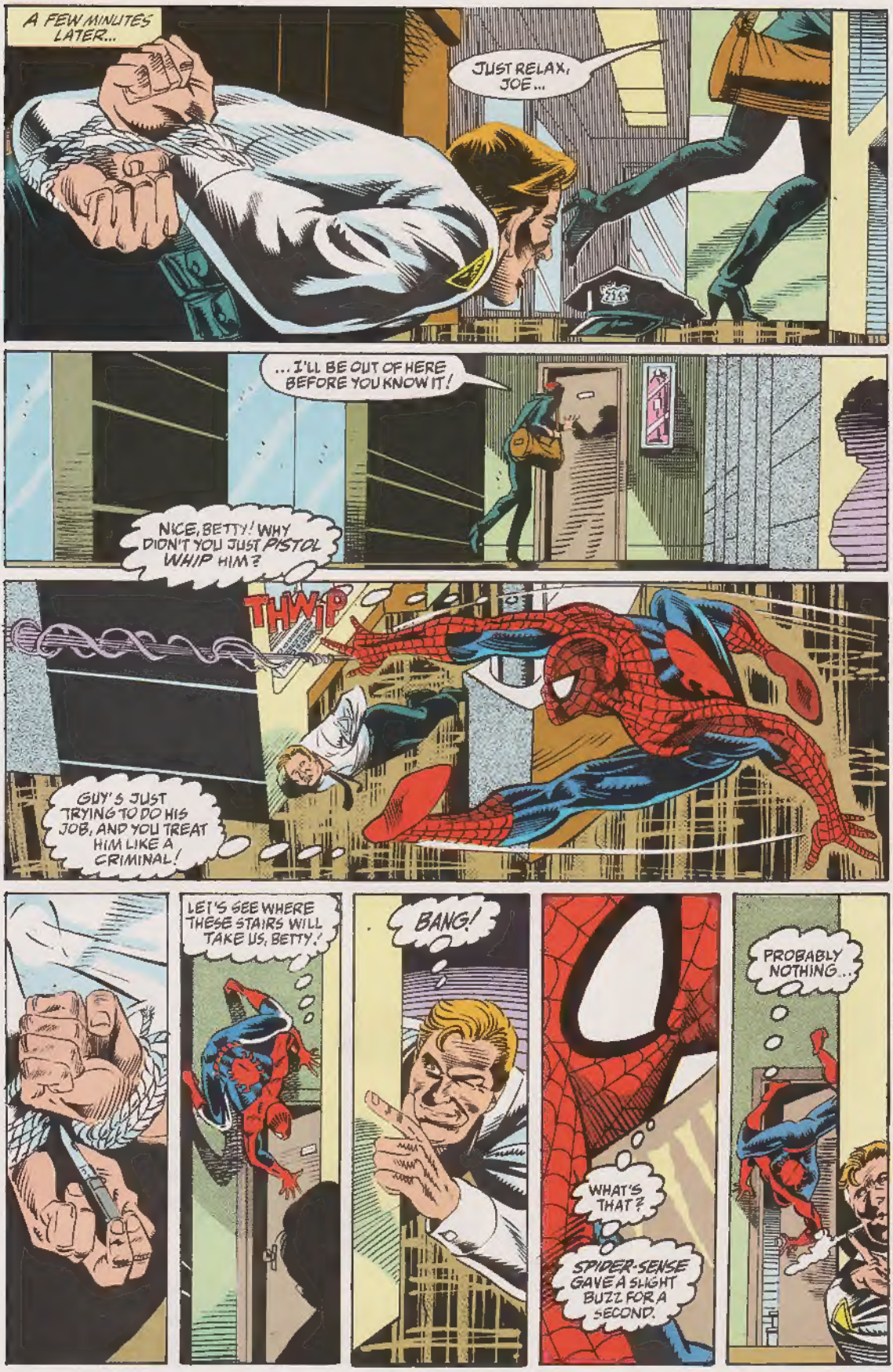

ESPECIALLY NOT FOR AGENTS WHO VOLUNTEER FOR THE ELITE SQUAD.
YEAH, BIG BUCKS AND ALL THE GLORY!
WONDER HOW THE REST OF THE GUYS WHO WENT THROUGH THIS ARE DOING?
AH, THEY MUST BE DOING OKAY, OR THEY WOULDN'T NEED US!
LET'S DO IT!
THIS AIN'T GOING TO HURT TOO MUCH, HUH, DOC?
YOU WILL REMEMBER NO PAIN.
IT'S GETTING WARM IN HERE.
YEAH. MY BLOOD FEELS LIKE IT'S BOILING...
AAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!
THE PROCESS WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE HOUR, S/R.
GOOD.
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO ARRANGE A BIT OF A TEST TO ENSURE THAT THE PROCEDURE WORKS.
I'M SURE THAT WILL NOT BE OVERLY DIFFICULT, CONSIDERING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITH OUR MS. BRANT.

ELSEWHERE...
BETTY...
...THE FOREIGNER...
...THIS SUICIDE TEAM OF HIS!
I'VE GOT TO GET TO BETTY AND FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT IS GOING ON!*
IT WAS THE FOREIGNER WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BETTY'S HUSBAND NED'S DEATH!
*IN THE NOW CLASSIC SPIDEY VS. WOLVERINE. --DANNY
I BLAMED MYSELF FOR A LONG TIME.
THAT WAS BEFORE I FOUND OUT THAT NED LEEDS WAS THE ORIGINAL HOBGOBLIN, AND THAT HIS DEATH HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!
BUT I STILL OWE THE FOREIGNER FOR THAT ONE.
ONCE AGAIN, MY PAST COMES BACK TO HAUNT ME.
AND BETTY IS GOING TO GET MY HELP WHETHER SHE WANTS IT OR NOT!
BUT IS THAT REALLY RIGHT? SHE BLAMES ME FOR SO MUCH OF THE MISFORTUNE IN HER LIFE. MAYBE I SHOULD LET HER BE.
TRUST HER TO HANDLE THIS IN A...
...SENSIBLE MANNER...?!

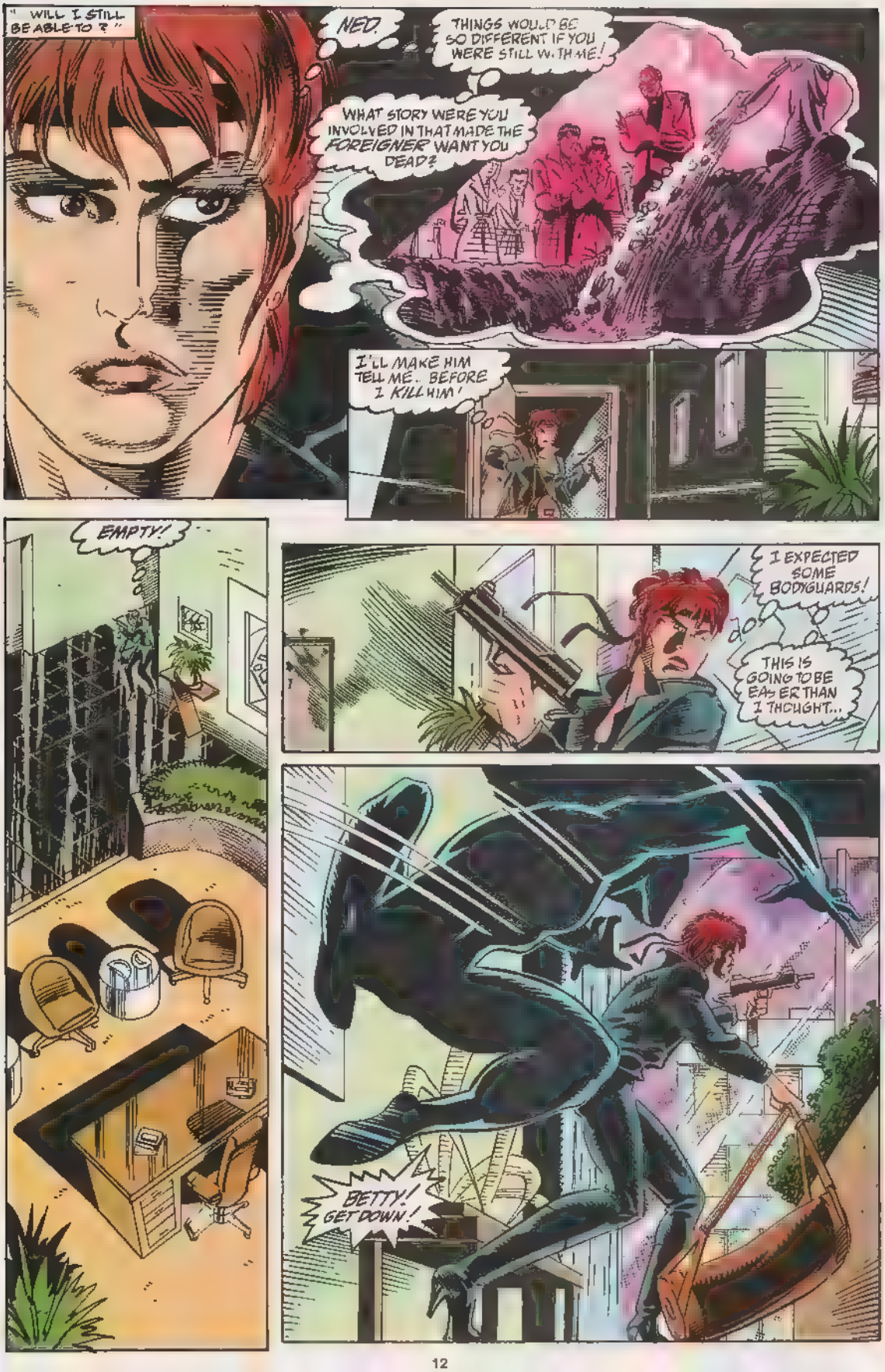
PEOPLE CHANGE OVER TIME, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
I DON'T CARE WHAT SHE'S BEEN THROUGH--
--I'M NOT GOING TO LET HER GET HERSELF KILLED!
BETTY!
WHAT IS GOING ON?
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
SHE WAS MY FIRST CRUSH.
I OWE HER.
BETTY MADE IT CLEAR THAT SHE DOESN'T WANT SPIDER-MAN'S HELP*.
...BUT SHE AND I GO WAY BACK. TO MY EARLY DAYS AT THE BUGLE.
WHOA! LOOKS LIKE THE FOREIGNER'S MEN WERE HERE ALREADY.
I'D LOVE TO INVITE YOU IN FOR COFFEE, PETER, BUT I'M IN KIND OF A RUSH.
*LAST ISSUE. -- DANNY
BETTY, THIS ISN'T YOU!
IT IS NOW!
I'M NOT JONAH'S SECRETARY, OR YOUR SWEETHEART ANYMORE!

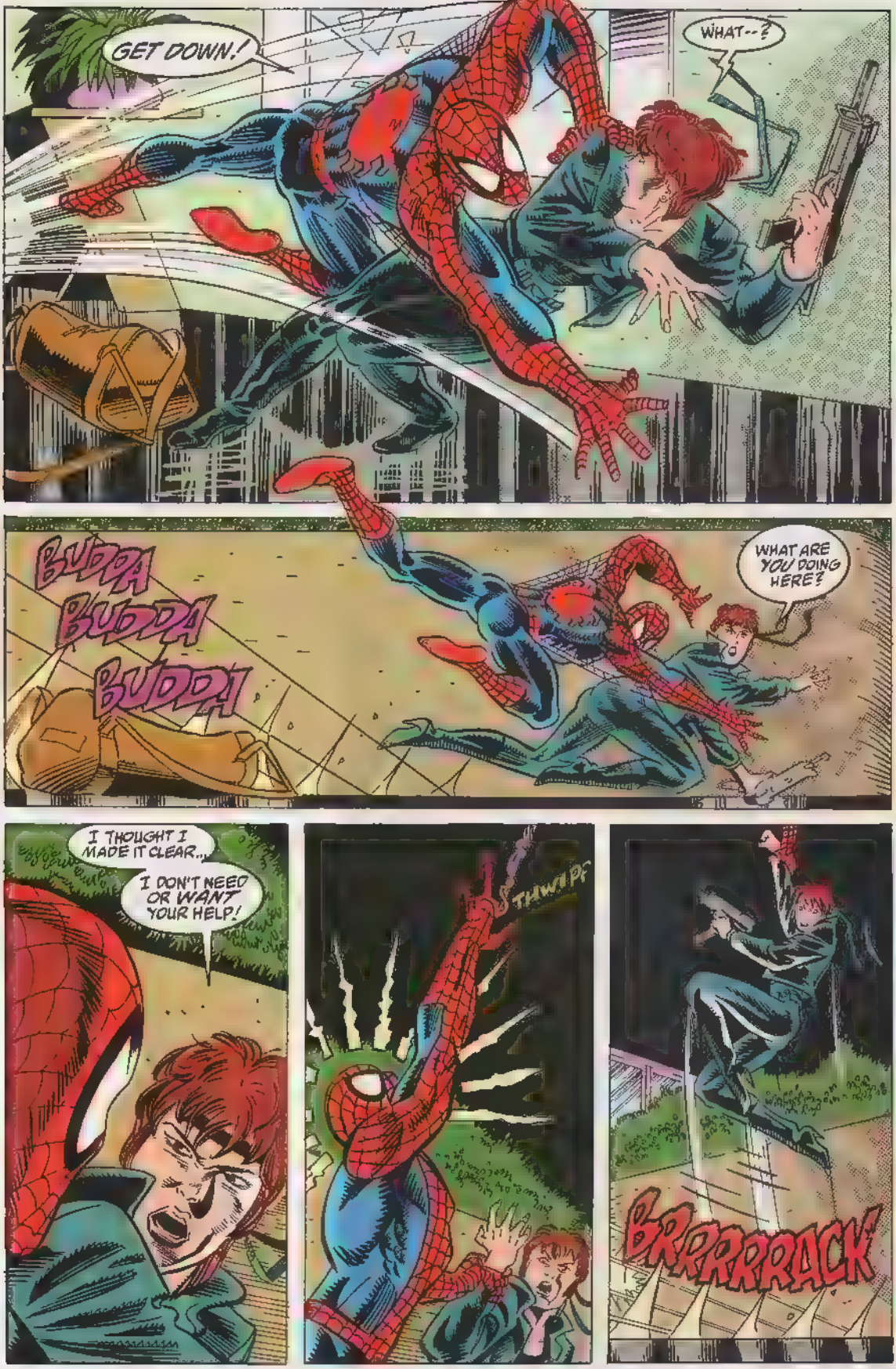
BETTY, I...
NO, PETER... I'M SORRY.
THE THING THAT I'M INVOLVED IN IS NO CONCERN OF YOURS--IT'S PERSONAL. I'M SORRY IF I FRIGHTENED YOU.
WHAT IS ALL THIS? THE WEAPONS? THE MARTIAL ARTS?
ALL PART OF BEING AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER, PETER!
JONAH WANTED ME TO GO DEEP COVER INTO AN ORGANIZATION WE'D RECEIVED INFORMATION ON. SUSPECTED TERRORIST TIES.
I GOT A JOB WITH THEM AS A SECRETARY-- JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS, HUH, PETER?
THEY OFFERED ALL TYPES OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES TO EMPLOYEES. WEAPONS TRAINING, EXPLOSIVES, HAND TO HAND-- THE WHOLE KIT AND KABOODLE.
I GOT INTO IT. FOUND OUT I WAS GOOD AT IT. IN A STRANGE WAY I STARTED FEELING BETTER ABOUT MYSELF.
FELT LIKE I WASN'T GOING TO BE A VICTIM ANYMORE.
THEN I FOUND OUT MORE THAN I SHOULD HAVE.
IT'S ALL IN HERE.
SEE THAT JONAH GETS IT, PETER.
I'M GOING TO SEE TO IT THAT THE FOREIGNER PAYS FOR NED'S DEATH!
YOU WERE ALWAYS A GOOD FRIEND, PETER. I ALWAYS HOPED THAT WE... YOU AND I...
GET THE FILE TO JONAH!
AND DON'T TRY TO FOLLOW ME!


A FEW MINUTES LATER...
YOU CAN TALK AND ACT AS TOUGH AS YOU WANT, BETTY, BUT...
...YOU'RE NOT GOING AFTER THE FOREIGNER ALONE!
I KNOW I CAN HELP YOU!
I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
95 NORTH NEW YORK
GLAD I REFILLED MY WEB CARTRIDGES! 'CAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE HEADING TO--
A SHORT TIME LATER...
--NEW JERSEY.
A NICE CORPORATE PARK. THE PERFECT FRONT FOR ONE OF THE FOREIGNER'S ORGANIZATIONS.
I'LL JUST HANG BACK A LITTLE. NEED TO GIVE BETTY SOME OPERATING ROOM.
" BUT NOT MORE THAN SHE CAN HANDLE. "
MS. BRANT?
YOU DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE PREMISES THIS LATE AT NIGHT! I'LL HAVE TO...
MY CLEARANCE HAS JUST BEEN UPGRADED, JOE!
YES MA'AM!


A FEW MINUTES LATER...
JUST RELAX, JOE...
...I'LL BE OUT OF HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!
NICE, BETTY! WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST PISTOL WHIP HIM?
THWIP
GUY'S JUST TRYING TO DO HIS JOB, AND YOU TREAT HIM LIKE A CRIMINAL!
LET'S SEE WHERE THESE STAIRS WILL TAKE US, BETTY!
BANG!
WHAT'S THAT?
SPIDER-SENSE GAVE A SLIGHT BUZZ FOR A SECOND.
PROBABLY NOTHING...

THE GAME IS AFOOT, GENTLEMEN. PLEASE PROCEED WITH ALL DUE HASTE.
AND DO NOT DISAPPOINT ME!
ON THE FIRE STAIRS LEADING TO THE PENT-HOUSE...
LOOK AT ME...
CARRYING A GUN! READY TO KILL A MAN--!
I SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN TOO FAR INTO THE ROLE I WAS PLAYING AS AN UNDERCOVER REPORTER!
WHAT WOULD NED THINK?
THEN AGAIN, NED IS THE REASON I'M DOING THIS!
HIS KILLER HAS TO PAY!
BETTY, HOW YOU'VE CHANGED!
WHEN WE FIRST MET, YOU WERE SO YOUNG, SO NAIVE...
WE BOTH WERE!
THEN YOU WITNESSED THE DEATH OF YOUR BROTHER, BENNET.*
THEN NED WAS KILLED.
I TRIED TO SHIELD YOU FROM THE FACT THAT HE WAS THE FIRST HOBGOBLIN. BUT NOW...
*AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #12. -- DANNY

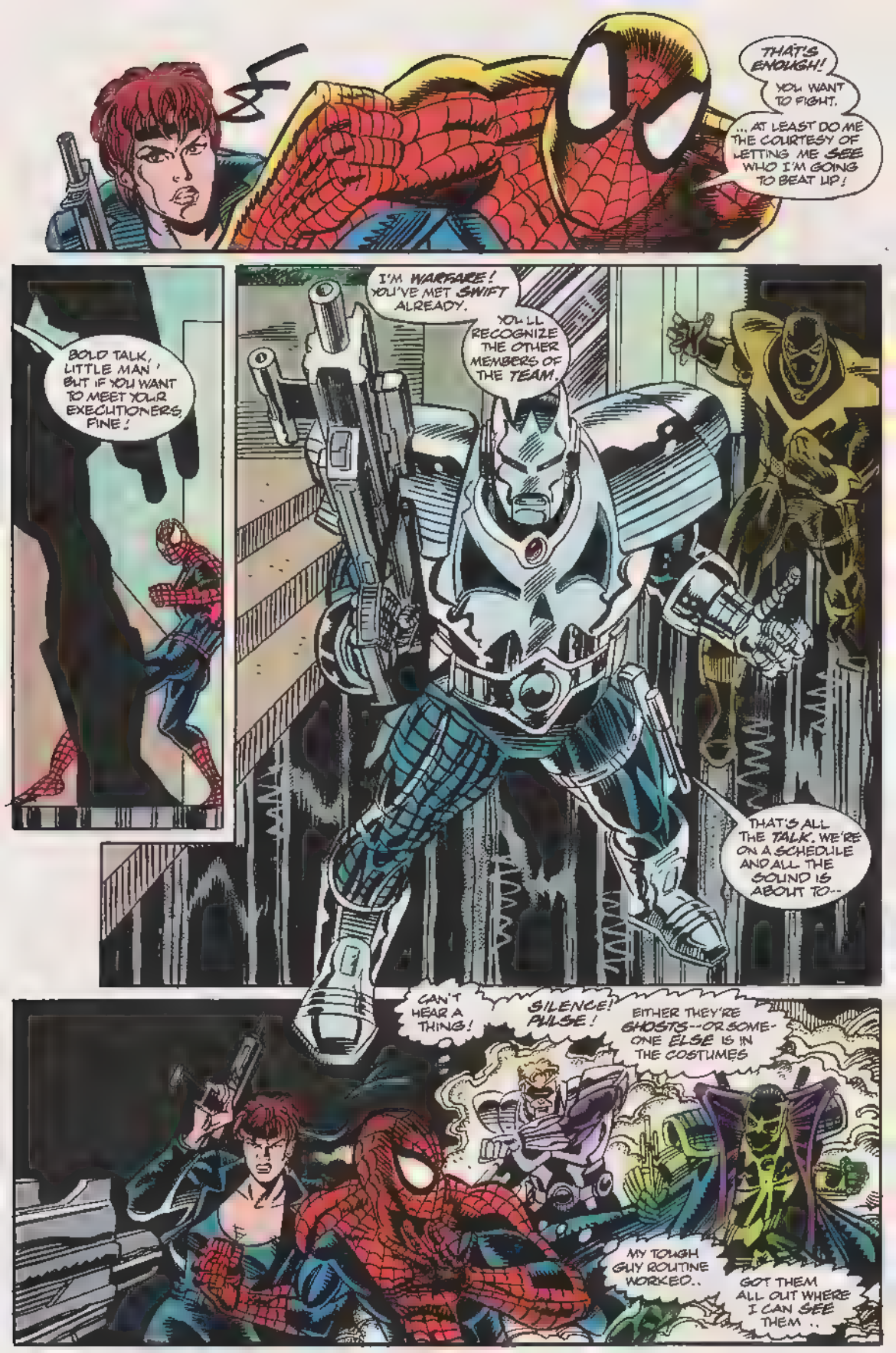

" WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO ? "
NED.
THINGS WOULD BE SO DIFFERENT IF YOU WERE STILL WITH ME!
WHAT STORY WERE YOU INVOLVED IN THAT MADE THE FOREIGNER WANT YOU DEAD?
I'LL MAKE HIM TELL ME. BEFORE I KILL HIM!
EMPTY!
I EXPECTED SOME BODYGUARDS!
THIS IS GOING TO BE EASIER THAN I THOUGHT...
BETTY! GET DOWN!

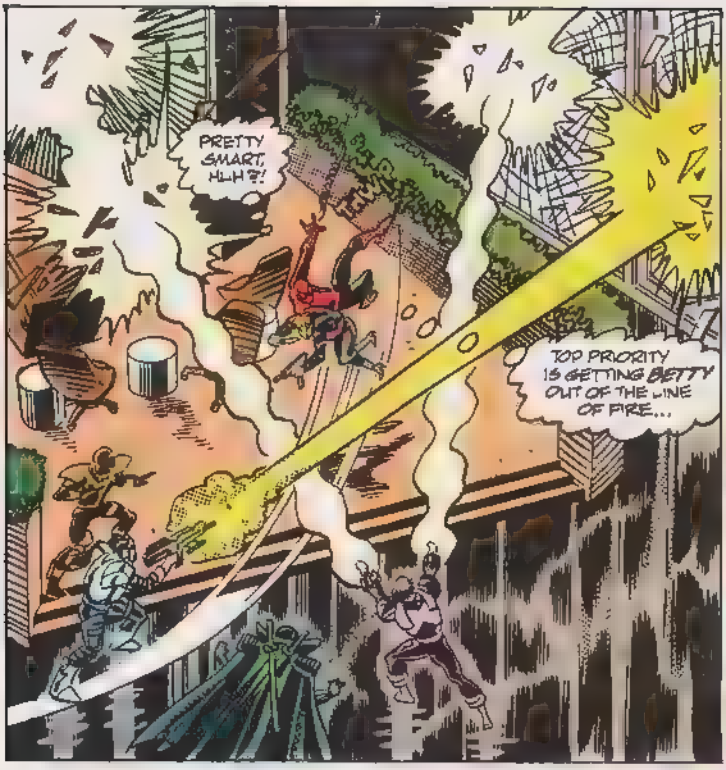

GET DOWN!
WHAT--?
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I THOUGHT I MADE IT CLEAR...
I DON'T NEED OR WANT YOUR HELP!
THWIP
BRRRRRACK

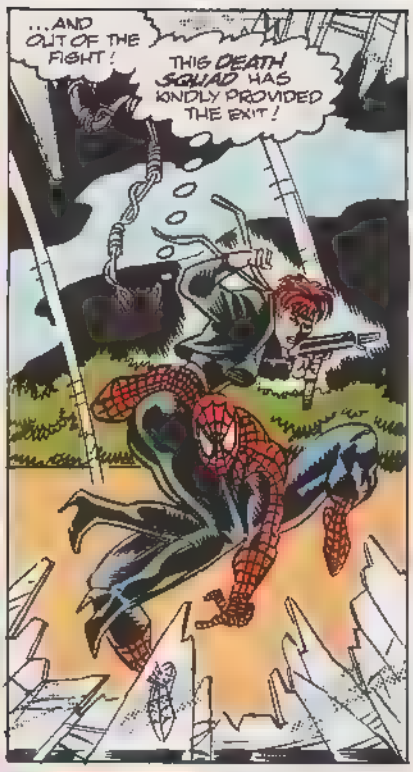
YOU MAY BE MS. RAMBO 1992, BUT I'M GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE.
YOU'RE WAY OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE, BETTY!
SO UP IS THE BEST ROUTE OUT OF HERE..
FRRZAAT
DOWN IS GOOD! DOWN DEFINITELY HAS ITS BENEFITS!
LET GO OF ME!
KRRRRR
THAT MAKE YOU FEEL ANY BETTER?
ONLY IF I HIT SOMETHING!
BETTY...

THUP
OOOF!
SWIFT-1 TO CONTROL.
I'VE MADE CONTACT...
...CLOSING IN FOR THE KILL!
ANOTHER OF THE FOREIGNER'S ELITE SUICIDE SQUAD?
I THINK I LIKED THE RUN-OF-THE-MILL ASSASSINS HE USED TO USE!
TOUGH!

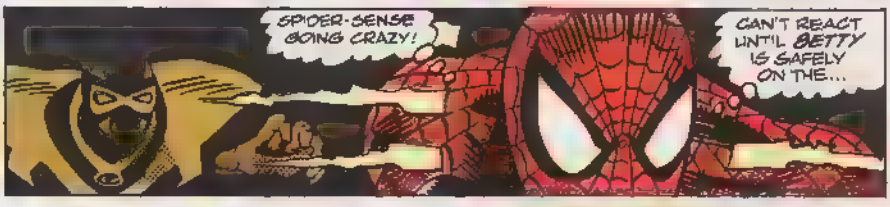
GOOD COMEBACK!
THAT WHY THEY CALL YOU SWIFT?
THWIP
FRZZAAT!
THAT'S THE SECOND PULSE-BOLT THAT CUT THROUGH MY WEB-LINE SINCE THIS FIGHT STARTED!
IF I BELIEVED IN GHOSTS I'D THINK THAT--
BAARRRRRRP
BETTY!
INCOMING!
THWIPP
THWIPP

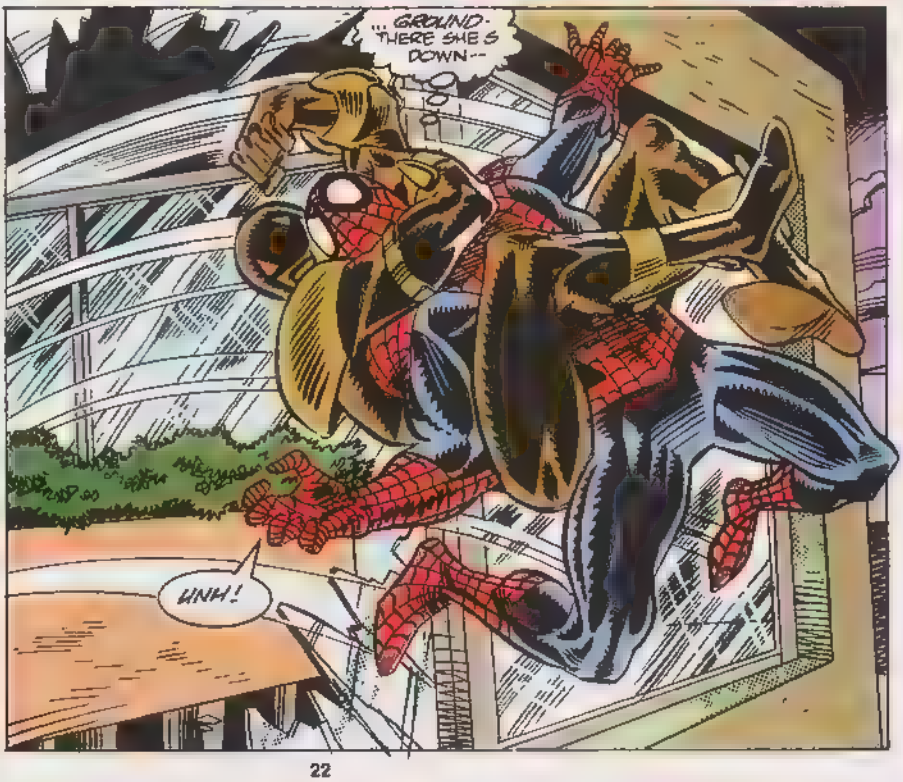

THAT'S ENOUGH!
YOU WANT TO FIGHT,
... AT LEAST DO ME THE COURTESY OF LETTING ME SEE WHO I'M GOING TO BEAT UP!
BOLD TALK, LITTLE MAN, BUT IF YOU WANT TO MEET YOUR EXECUTIONERS, FINE!
I'M WARSAKE! YOU'VE MET SWIFT ALREADY.
YOU'LL RECOGNIZE THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TEAM.
THAT'S ALL THE TALK. WE'RE ON A SCHEDULE AND ALL THE SOUND IS ABOUT TO--
CAN'T HEAR A THING!
SILENCE! FALSE!
EITHER THEY'RE GHOSTS--OR SOMEONE ELSE IS IN THE COSTUMES
MY TOUGH GUY ROUTINE WORKED..
GOT THEM ALL OUT WHERE I CAN SEE THEM..

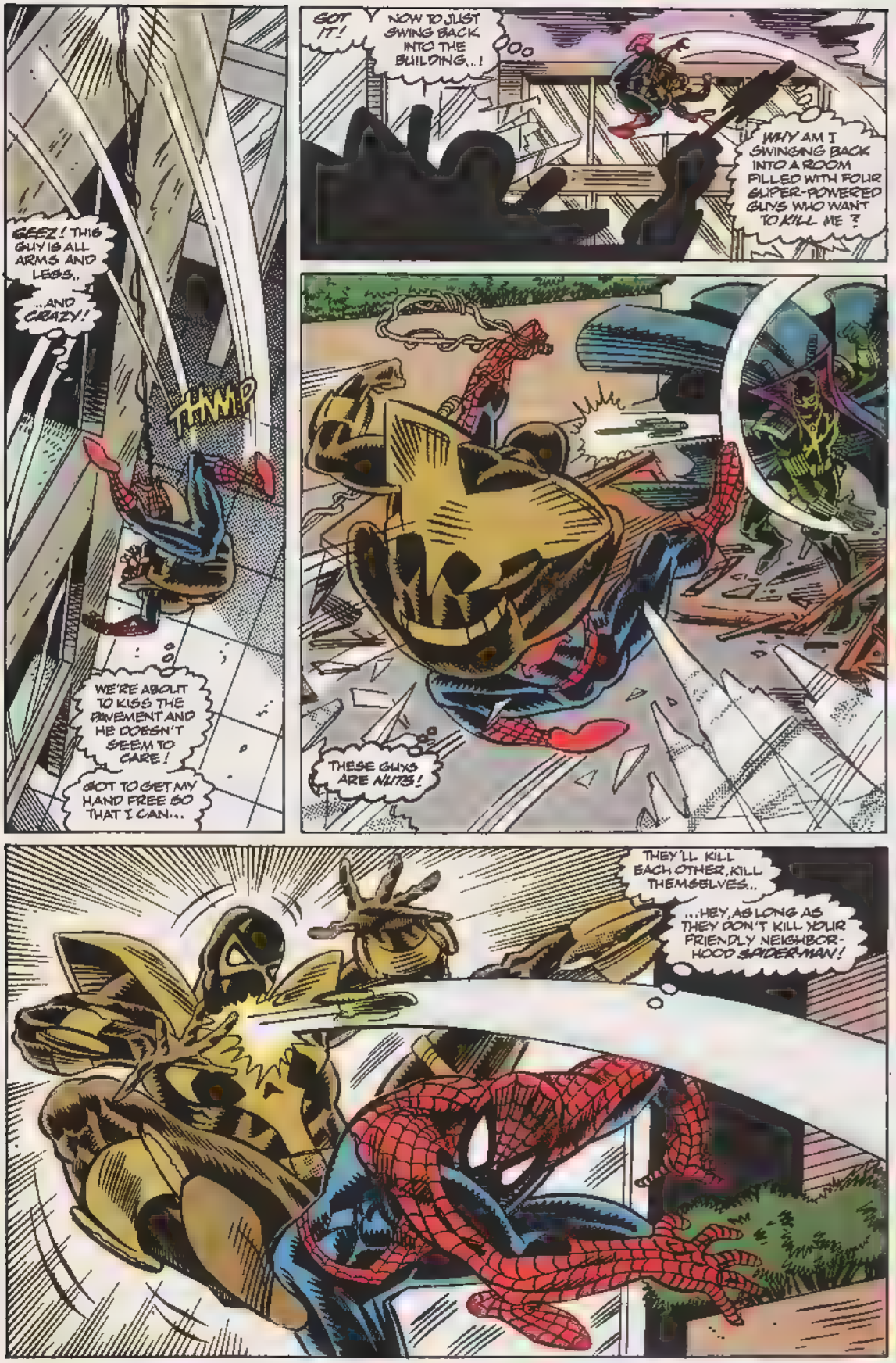

PRETTY SMART, HUH?!
TOP PRIORITY IS GETTING BETTY OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE...

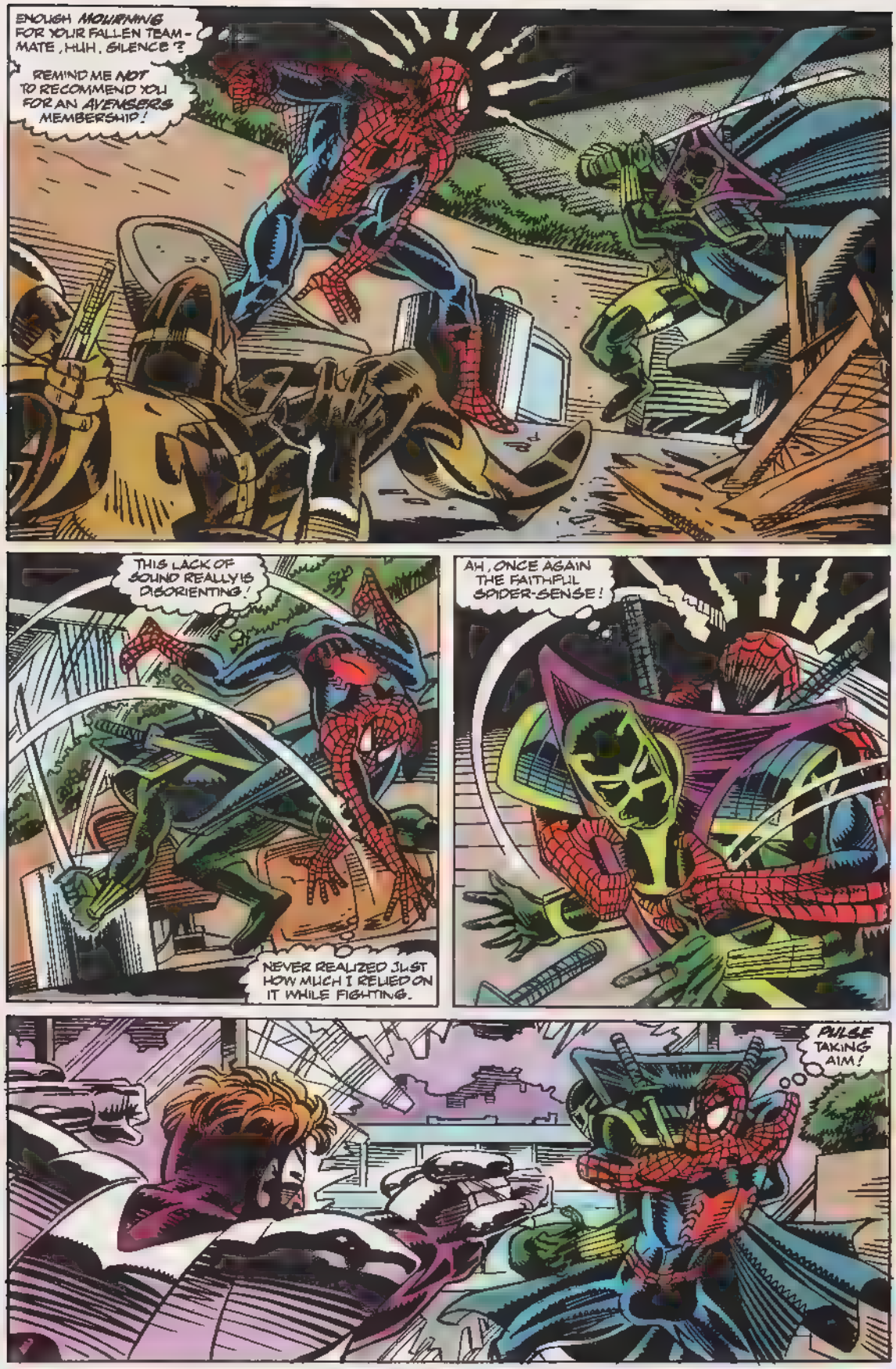

...AND OUT OF THE FIGHT!
THIS DEATH SQUAD HAS KINDLY PROVIDED THE EXIT!

THIS IS NOT GOING TO SCORE ME ANY POINTS FOR NON-INTERFERENCE WITH BETTY!
OH, WELL. ANOTHER LONG-TIME FRIEND HATES MY GUTS! SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?


SPIDER-SENSE GOING CRAZY!
CAN'T REACT UNTIL BETTY IS SAFELY ON THE...


...GROUND-THERE SHE S DOWN--
UNH!


GOT IT!
NOW TO JUST SWING BACK INTO THE BUILDING..!
WHY AM I SWINGING BACK INTO A ROOM FILLED WITH FOUR SUPER-POWERED GUYS WHO WANT TO KILL ME?
GEEZ! THIS GUY IS ALL ARMS AND LEGS..
...AND CRAZY!
THWIP
WE'RE ABOUT TO KISS THE PAVEMENT AND HE DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE!
GOT TO GET MY HAND FREE SO THAT I CAN...
THESE GUYS ARE NUTS!
THEY'LL KILL EACH OTHER, KILL THEMSELVES..
...HEY, AS LONG AS THEY DON'T KILL YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR-HOOD SPIDER-MAN!


ENOUGH MOURNING FOR YOUR FALLEN TEAMMATE, HUH, SILENCE?
REMIND ME NOT TO RECOMMEND YOU FOR AN AVENGERS MEMBERSHIP!
THIS LACK OF SOUND REALLY IS DISORIENTING!
NEVER REALIZED JUST HOW MUCH I RELIED ON IT WHILE FIGHTING.
AH, ONCE AGAIN THE FAITHFUL SPIDER-SENSE!
PULSE TAKING AIM!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

MARVEL Comics

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

Take warning! Today's tantalizing little treatise is gonna be one big, unblushing, unabashed plug! Much as I try not to sully the cultural purity of this prize-winning column (No lie! I awarded myself a no-prize only last week), I can hold back no longer! The time has come to shamelessly huckster one of the greatest projects Marvel has ever offered the pantin' public!

I had no intention of writing about it this month — but then, I saw some pages! I tell you true, they blew me away! The artwork! The action! The characters! The stories! They represent the peak of superhero excitement! And these are just the first issues! Just imagine what'll happen when we begin to figure out what the heck we're doing!

But none of this humongous hype will mean anything if I don't tell you the name of the mags that have me semi-delirious! Although, chances are you've already guessed what I'm leading up to in my carefully restrained, low-key way! All of comicdom has been wondering and whispering about Marvel's long-awaited 100-year leap into the next century of superhero sagas — the daring new series which spans ten dangerous decades in order to bring us to a breathtakingly new and startling world — a world of the horrible and the heroic, the weird and the wonderful, the violent and the valorous — in short, the totally awesome, mind-staggering world of — MARVEL 2099!

Best of all, the world of one hundred years from now is still an integral part of the famed Marvel Universe! For, in MARVEL 2099 you'll meet the SPIDER-MAN of the future, the PUNISHER of the future, the DR. DOOM of the future, and the one new character who is destined to take his place among the most dazzling stars in our literary firmament — RAVAGE! Man Without Mercy!

I've seen the artwork! I've read the scripts! I've shared the excitement racing madly through the Bullpen and I tell you this — there has never been a new comicbook project more eagerly awaited or more passionately created! SPIDER-MAN 2099! PUNISHER 2099! DR. DOOM 2099! And they're only the beginning! Yes, MARVEL 2099 may well be the most sensational new series of the next ten decades!

Okay! I warned you that this would be an unadulterated plug! But it wasn't written just to sell a few extra copies; matter of fact the mags aren't even available yet! It was written to alert you, as one friend to another, when they do go on sale, don't let a single copy of the MARVEL 2099 series slip away, because this is a golden opportunity, for you and us together, to be in at the start of a legend!

Excelsior

Stan

Stan Lee

"TAKE ME OUT TO THE COMIC BOOK SHOP!" This is a familiar cry that rings out every year at about this time. School's out, the weather is hot, and children of all ages and shoe sizes are looking for new ways to enjoy the new national pastime — comic books! All across the nation, eager readers are keeping their eye firmly on the comic racks, choking up on their wallets, ready to take a swing at a new series, hoping for a home run. Truly it is a joyous time for all.

There was plenty of joy in Marvelville this past April, as the Marvel editorial all-stars took off a few rainy days in April for the warmer climes of California. The line-up looked like this: **Stan Lee**, who is the Abner Doubleday of Marvel, Manager **Tom DeFalco**, Benchwarmer **Mark Gruenwald**, Outfielder **Carl Potts**, Switch-hitter **Fabian Nicieza**, Shortstop **Bobbie Chase**, and Star Rookie **Hildy Mesnik**. The Marvel boys 'n girls of summer were in California to round the promotional bases, and actually wound up performing something of a double-header.

They first stepped up to the plate in Oakland where they threw out the first ball at a local comics convention. If the roar of the crowd was any indication, the Marvel madmen scored quite a hit with their "exhibition games." Among other hair-raising heroics, Tom D. performed his famous "popping a balloon by sitting on it" trick, Bobbie Chase juggled unjugglable garments, Mark demonstrated his face's affinity for shaving cream pies, and Fabian caught M&M's in his mouth. A talent scout was heard to remark that "Fabian has a good eye. I'm not crazy about his nose, but the kid has a good eye." The convention featured all these Marvel madmen playing their best game; everyone gave 110%. As one spectator noted at the time, "They really came here to play ... with the possible exception of DeFalco, who may have come just for the promise of free peanuts and crackerjacks!"

The Marvelballers carried their winning streak over to **George Lucas**'s special effects company, Industrial Light and Magic, located at a secret location in _____, California. Although Tom's titans didn't have the home field advantage, they still came through like champions. At ILM, DeFalco's dreadnaughts presented an hour and a half talk about Marvel as part of ILM's guest-lecture series. The speech went over like a grand slam, with the Marvel team committing only a few errors. (Fortunately for all, the speech did not go into extra innings.)

Having completed this double play of shmoozing, the Marvel team headed for home. Back at our own field of comic book dreams, the Marvel bullpen was treated to visits by a few famous heavy-hitters. These illustrious guests were not sluggers — rather they were musicians! First up was half of the famous **Kid 'n Play** rap team — none other than Hall of Famer, **Kid**! Kid was a good sport — you could say he really came to play. (Unfortunately, Play didn't come to *kid*.) Kid really did stop by — would we kid you about a thing like that?

Hot new heavy metal group **War Babies** also dropped by the bullpen, to witness our hardworking team as we went through spring training. Fans of hard-rockin' music should check out the War Babies new album — these guys may never play the National Anthem at Yankee Stadium, but their music is ready for the major leagues!

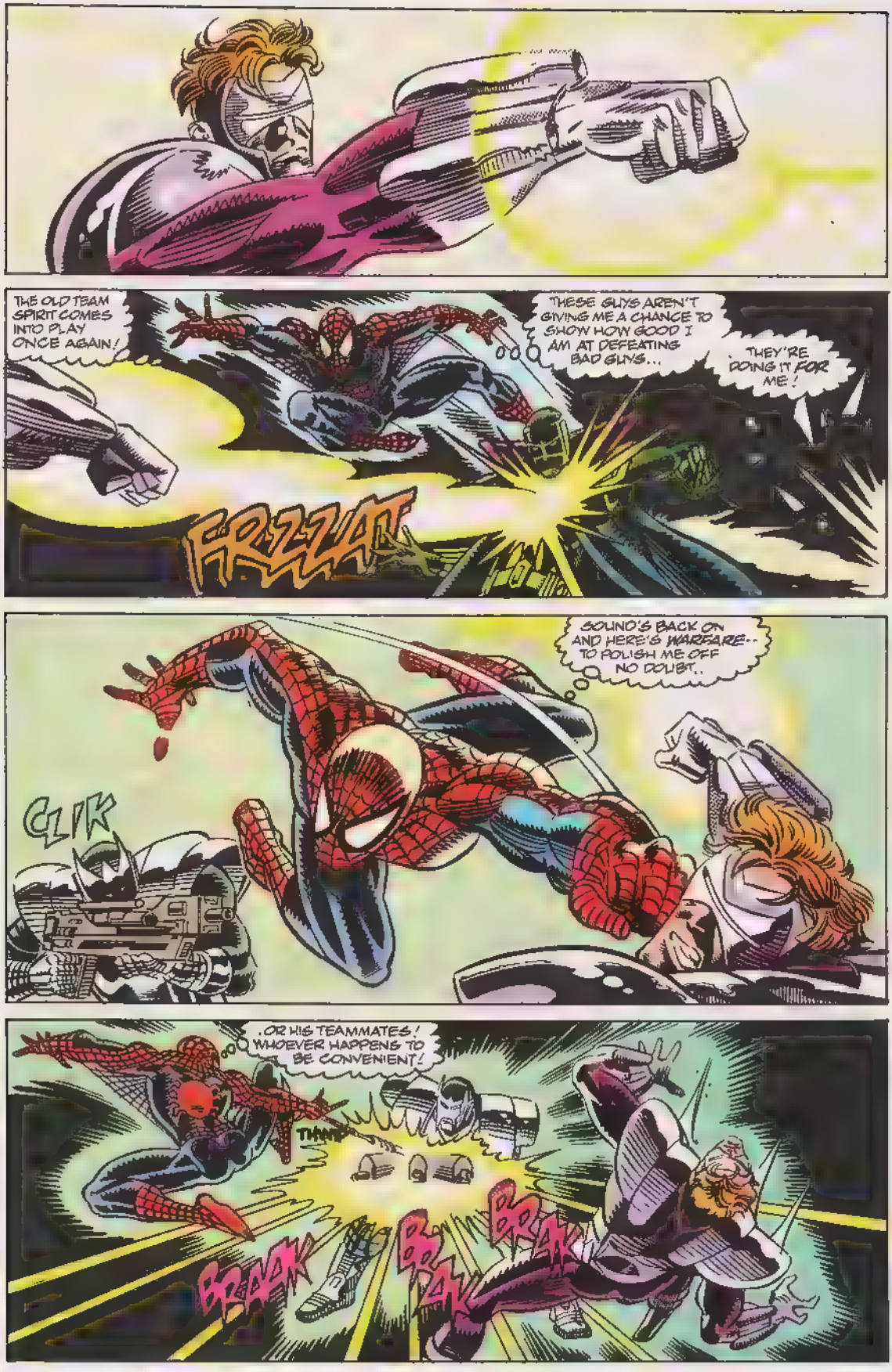
As we complete the seventh inning stretch of this Bullpen page, we are somehow put in the mind of ... baseball. This is probably as good a time as any to check in with the Marvel softball team, the Punishers. This grim and gritty team, whose uniforms feature glow-in-the-dark gatefold holograms, lost their first game against local TV station WNET. Still, the Punishers put up a good fight, much like the fictional Punisher in pursuit of some perpetrators, keeping it competitive at 12-8. Team managers this year are managing editor "Diamond" **David Wohl** and editor **Rob** "The Babe" **Tokar**.

At the time of this writing, the Marvel team was gearing up for the first of three big games against uptown archrivals DC. After the way we humiliated the DC Batmen last year, it should be interesting to see what happens when the Batmen Return. (Sure, they can get multi-million dollar movies made, but can they compete where it really counts — on the softball field?)

And, in the field of television, one show which is sure to slide into first place soon is the syndicated **Dennis Miller** Show. Dennis did some colorful commentary about Marvel Comics of the late sixties on a recent episode of his late night talk-fest. It seems Dennis was a bigtime Marveloid in his bush league days. Thanks for going to bat for us, Dennis! You can be our designated talk show host any time!

Looks like Mighty Marvel has not struck out with the fans this year. If our winning streak continues, we may make it all the way to the World Series of Comics! So until next time, remember — it ain't over till the Kingpin sings!

HIGH RESOLUTION POOR QUALITY IMAGE SUMMER BULLPEN BOREDOM BLAH BLAH BLOCKBUSTERS BLOOD AND GLORY CREDIT TO YOUR SPECIES LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR LIFETIME COMMITMENTS FASHION POLICE MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE RISE OF THE MIDNIGHT SONS FRACTALS DELICATESSEN SPACE BATTLE ENDEAVOR


THE OLD TEAM SPIRIT COMES INTO PLAY ONCE AGAIN!
THESE GUYS AREN'T GIVING ME A CHANCE TO SHOW HOW GOOD I AM AT DEFEATING BAD GUYS...
THEY'RE DOING IT FOR ME!
FRZZAT
SOUND'S BACK ON AND HERE'S WARFARE-- TO POLISH ME OFF NO DOUBT..
CLIK
..OR HIS TEAMMATES! WHOEVER HAPPENS TO BE CONVENIENT!
THWIP
BRAAK
BRAK
BRAK

OKAY!
NO MORE GUNS!
NO MORE KILLING EACH OTHER!
NO MORE TRYING TO KILL ME!
WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?
KLUD
BRAVO! I SAY BRAVO, MAN!
FOREIGNER! WHAT IS THIS?
A BIT OF A TEST, ACTUALLY!
I'VE MOVED INTO THE SUPER-POWERED ASSASSIN MARKET.
THESE ARE MY LATEST VENTURE... THE DEATH SQUAD.
THE LAB BOYS ASSURE ME THAT THEY ARE CUTTING EDGE, STATE OF THE ART AND ALL THAT.
THEY'RE ALSO ALL QUITE DEAD!
NOT AT ALL, GOOD SIR. THE BODIES INSIDE THE COSTUMES ARE INCONSEQUENTIAL.
THOUGH I HAD TRULY HOPED THAT THEY WOULD PROVE A BIT MORE OF A FIGHT FOR YOU.
THE DATA FROM THE BATTLE IS FED BACK TO MY LAB VIA BRAIN IMPLANTS. THE MAIN COMPUTER THEN PASSES ON INFORMATION FROM PAST BATTLES TO THE NEXT VOLUNTEERS.
I REALLY HAVE QUITE THE WAITING LIST, DON'T YOU KNOW?
SUPER-POWERS ARE ALL THE RAGE THESE DAYS. SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE WANTS THEIR CHANCE. AND THERE IS QUITE A MARKET FOR THEIR SERVICES.

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH BETTY LEEDS?!
STROKE OF LUCK, ACTUALLY. WE DISCOVERED HER LITTLE MASQUERADE THE DAY SHE APPLIED FOR THE JOB HERE.
MY INTELLIGENCE PEOPLE LEARNED THAT THERE WAS A CONNECTION BETWEEN YOU AND THE YOUNG LADY...
...THOUGHT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE HER TO LURE YOU TO US.
THERE IS A BIT OF PRICE ON YOUR HEAD, DON'T YOU KNOW?
NO?
YOU WILL SOON ENOUGH!
BIG THINGS ARE IN THE AIR.
YOU WILL BE SEEING MY DEATH SQUAD AGAIN, I CAN ASSURE YOU OF THAT. AND THE NEXT TIME THEY'LL BE MUCH BETTER PREPARED. COMPUTER MODELS AND ALL THAT ROT.
THAT IS, IF YOU GET OUT OF HERE IN TIME. THE DATA RETRIEVAL SEQUENCE HAS STARTED.
WARFARE-- STARTING THE SELF DESTRUCT SEQUENCE THAT PULSE USED!
TOO BAD ABOUT THE LEEDS WOMAN. NO NEED FOR HER TO DIE LIKE HER HUSBAND. SHE NEVER EVEN GOT TO FIND OUT WHY I HAD HIM KILLED.
...HIM BEING THE HOBGOBLIN AND ALL. NED SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN PLAYING WITH THE BIG BOYS. TA!
BTOOM
BETTY! HE WAS..
DON'T SAY A THING.
LET'S JUST GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE PLACE...

BRAK-KOOM
I DON'T SUPPOSE HE WAS IN THERE?
NOT A CHANCE.
WAS IT TRUE WHAT HE SAID ABOUT NED? WAS HE THE HOBGOBLIN?
IT IS TRUE.
I GUESS I ALWAYS REALLY KNEW. FORCED IT OUT OF MY MIND.
BUT IT WAS EASIER TO BLAME YOU FOR EVERYTHING.
THE MASK MAKES YOU SO IMPERSONAL. EASY TO BE THE SCAPEGOAT. I'M SORRY!
SO AM I, BETTY.
END.

WEB-ZINGERS

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
ERIC FEIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Marvel,

Congratulations to Howard Mackie and Alex Saviuk. As of issue #86, "The Name of the Rose" looks to be the best storyline that WEB has seen to date. I never thought a story as big as this would come from the mystery photo that Nick Katzenberg snapped in SPECTACULAR #173. If parts 4 through 6 of "Name" are as good, then it will rank up there with the Michelinie/Larsen "Return of the Sinister Six" and DeMatteis/Buscema's "Child Within" as a classic six-parter.

I'm glad that Howard Mackie has come on board. His current plot combines action, drama, suspense and characterization perfectly.

Alex Saviuk also deserves praise--his renditions of Kingpin and Hobgoblin are great and his moody,but dynamic, action panels help build the tension.

I also enjoyed the appearance by the Triad Brothers, and as for the Hobgoblin--wow! The stunning twist concerning Hobby's demonic nature was unexpected and terrific! "Demogoblin" was powerful enough when he had a human side holding him in check, but now...?! Will Macendale carry on with his criminal career, or has his experience with the demon left him too shook up?

With a new Hobgoblin, a new Rose, and a new Venom (Carnage), Spidey's sure got his hands full! I'm looking forward to the conclusion and above all else, I hope Nick Katzenberg gets his!

Till Hobgoblin wins a beauty contest, Make Mine Marvel!

John Kelly
19 Barton Close
Essex, England

We're afraid Macendale's had too much of a taste of the criminal life to turn his back on it now, as you'll see next issue!

Dear Hobgoblineers,

I've been following Hobgoblin's story ever since N'astirh turned him into a demon (which hunts mercenaries, no less!). When Hobgoblin started transforming back and forth between Macendale and his demon half (GHOST RIDER #17), I became very nervous. I thought we were going to lose the demon Hobgoblin forever. Then MOON KNIGHT #33 came out. My anticipation was nearly unbearable. Upon seeing the cover of WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #86, my dreams were realized. Hobgoblin splits in two! You guys have made my year!

The new "Demogoblin" is great!! My favorite parts of WEB #86 were page 25 (of course) and the top right corner of page 29 (awesome!). My highest praise (as Hobgoblin's #1 fan) goes out to Howard Mackie (for the brilliant writing), Alex Saviuk, Ron Garney, and Mark Texeira (for the great penciling). I can't wait to see what happens next!

Randall Glass
23 W. Wainwright Drive.
Poquoson, VA 23662

We've made your year already, Randall? Guess we won't have to finish all the rest of the great stuff we've got planned, what with the rest of Spidey's thirtieth anniversary plans and all, especially all the intense stuff with the return of Peter's parents! Well, since it's already in the works...we'll publish the stuff anyway... Hope we can make your next year, too.

Dear Howard and Danny,

Ever since AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #253, the Rose has been one of my favorite Spidey villains. So, the big question is, what took you so long to bring him back?

Howard, believe it or not, I'm actually enjoying your writing on WEB even more than your writing on GHOST RIDER.

I really like the greater emphasis on Peter in this storyline. All too often, writers just sort of have him drop in on a page or two (Pete gets domestic with Mary Jane, Pete visits Aunt May, Pete tries to sell his pics, etc.) and then it's back to Spidey. Guys, you have four Spider-Man monthlies. It won't kill you to focus on Pete more. Thanks, Howard, for recognizing this.

One last thought: Is it just me or is Nick Katzenberg the perfect nemesis for Pete? Sure, in the earlier days he had Flash and J.J.J., but they've both softened up a bit. Besides, Nick is sleazier than Venom, Hobgoblin and Doc Doom combined.

David R. Scott
2658 W. Boise #3
Boise, ID 83706

You're right, David. Spider-Man without Peter Parker, or Peter Parker without Spider-Man wouldn't be half as interesting. We'll try harder to keep that in mind. And wait'll you see what's gonna happens to ol' Nick!

Dear Danny and Eric;

Re: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #86.

Excellent! So far, "The Name of the Rose" has been one of the best Spider-Man stories I've read in a long time. Watching the Hobgoblin transform back and forth, I almost felt sorry for him. Almost. The truly horrifying thing is that now that Macendale and the Hobgoblin are separate beings, old Hobby has become simply a killing monster, with no human feelings at all. I have a terrible feeling that this Hobgoblin will make the other one look like a boy-scout.

Unfortunately, you did make one mistake in WEB #86. On page 18, when Peter was hanging Nick out the window, you didn't let Peter drop him. To me, that was a serious mistake. Nick Katzenberg is the lowest of the low, and if there is any justice in the world, maybe he'll run into the Demogoblin in a dark alley some night.

Finally, before I go, a guess as to who the new Rose might be. It isn't Ned, since he is dead, so that only leaves Alfredo. Right?

Kevin Hall
5437 Bradley Pines Circle
Sandston, VA 23150

No matter how "low" Nick Katzenberg is, if Spidey had purposely dropped him he'd have fallen even farther than Katzenberg. After all, a hero is defined by his actions, right, Kevin?

As for who's under the mask...only time will tell...!

Dear Marvel,

"The Name of the Rose" storyline is both excellent and exciting. As the biggest fan of both of the original Green Goblin and Hobgoblin, I have enjoyed it very much. I would like to see someone kill that loser, Macendale, for having the original Hobgoblin killed, be it Demogoblin, one of the Roses, or the Praetorian Guard, who seem to hate his guts already.

Demogoblin is cool and the Praetorian Guard has proven to be an excellent fighting unit, since they easily manhandled Spidey, an accomplishment that others with superior powers have been unable to do.

Bob Graham
St. Louis, MO 63141

The Praetorian Guard are a tough bunch--and they're going to be earning their keep, just you wait and see, Bob.

Dear Web-Zingers

I'm writing to say that I really, really think that "The Name of the Rose" is just way out fresh. I mean you homeboys have really, really outdone yourselves. So far, I've gotten the first three issues of this 6-parter and I think that it's just jammin' with excitement. Who would ever think of having the Hobgoblin mixed up in all this! Spider-Man's the best!

William Hall
1672 Cortland
Detroit, MI 48206

NEXT: The beginning of a four-part extravaganza, intersecting with SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE, and guest-starring *Venom* and *Ghost Rider*. (But to have truth in advertising, they aren't here next issue. But *Moon Knight, Hobgoblin* and the *Foreigner* are! If you miss this one, you'll regret it forever!)